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The situation in the Middle East

Measures to eliminate international terrorism

Security Council
Sixtieth year

Identical letters dated 5 December 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

I am writing in order to draw your attention to a most recent attack perpetrated against the citizens of Israel — the continual firing of Kassam rocket and mortar shells.

On 3-4 December 2005, the terrorist organization al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade assaulted Israel with Kassam artillery rocket and mortar shells, which landed in the town of Nativ Ha'asara in the southern Negev and resulted in damage to community property. Kassam rockets landed near the Israeli town of Sderot, in an avocado orchard in the western Negev and in another open field in the western Negev. It should be noted that the Kassam attacks come only one day after Israel took steps to ease travel and work permit restrictions in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In response to the latest Kassam attacks and in an act of self-defence, Israel opened fire at the sources of the rocket fire and launched a strike against an office in Gaza City that is used to coordinate terrorist activities.

Since Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank in August 2005, Palestinian terrorists have fired more than 170 Kassam rocket and mortar shells at Israel.

What is particularly troubling with the latest attacks is that the terrorist organization that perpetrated them, al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, is affiliated with Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas's very own Fatah movement. The Palestinian Authority is obligated by the Road Map to dismantle terrorist organizations and eliminate the terrorist infrastructure. Yet as these terrorist attacks signify, the Palestinian Authority passively allows its cohorts to perpetrate acts of violence against Israel.

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Excellency, only when the Palestinian Authority dismantles terrorist groups will peace become possible. Israel recognizes that this represents a difficult course of action. Yet it is only through such action that the parties to the conflict will be able to advance in the path of peace. Otherwise all international efforts, including those of the United Nations, will continue to be in vain.

I submit this letter in follow-up to numerous letters detailing the campaign of Palestinian terrorism launched in September 2000, which document the crimes for which the terrorists and their supporters must be held fully accountable.

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 14 and 108.

(*Signed*) Dan **Gillerman**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative